

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 111999A]

Endangered Species; Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permit (1226).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received a permit application from Mr. Mike Clancy, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) (1226).

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5:00pm eastern standard time on December 27, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the application should be sent to: Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may also be sent via fax to (301) 713-0376. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the internet. The application and related documents are available for review in the following office, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, F/PR3, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (ph: 301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (ph: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Authority**

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) Are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on the application listed in this notice should set out the specific

reasons why a hearing on the application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearings is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summary are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in this Notice

The following species is covered in this notice:

Endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

New Application Received

As a requirement in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Sturgeon Management Plan, New York State must initiate monitoring of juvenile Atlantic sturgeon in the Hudson River. While conducting this research it is a very likely and unavoidable event that shortnose will be captured in the sampling gear deployed to capture Atlantic sturgeon. The NYSDEC is applying for a permit to handle and tag any shortnose sturgeon incidentally caught in their sampling gear. The NYSDEC will work in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (permit #1051) to share biological and movement data regarding shortnose sturgeon residing in the Hudson River.

Dated: November 19, 1999.

Margaret C. Lorenz,

Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-30806 Filed 11-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Patent and Trademark Office****Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Certificate Action Form**

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DoC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental

Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Art Purcell, Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Systems Architecture and Engineering, Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, by telephone at (703) 308-6856, or by e-mail at art.purcell@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**I. Abstract**

The Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is a set of hardware, software, policies, and procedures that the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has chosen to support secure electronic communications between the PTO and its customers. The information collected by the PTO through the Certificate Action Form (PTO Form PTO-2042) is used by the PTO to authorize the creation of a digital certificate. The digital certificate enables the PTO to issue the cryptographic "keys" necessary to provide the applicant with a digital identity and to support encrypted communication between the applicant and the PTO. Using PKI enables the PTO to offer the option to applicants to review their patent application information, to send their patent applications, and to communicate with the PTO electronically, while preserving the integrity and confidentiality of these various actions. Both the laws governing patents and the Patent Cooperation Treaties established between the United States and the international community require that patent applications be preserved in confidence. Using PKI ensures that the patent applications are preserved in confidence because it requires that a user authenticate his or her identity through passwords or other means before it allows the user access to the encryption and digital signature services.

The PTO will use PKI to support secure communications and electronic commerce with its applicant community, international business partners, the Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries, its own employees, and support contractors. By implementing PKI, the PTO is indicating to its customers that the agency is making a major commitment to preserve the integrity of the electronic transactions. PKI can also alert the different parties involved that an electronic transaction has occurred.